

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 232515 TOSEC 270382

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM HABIB

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, RH

SUBJECT: MESSAGE FROM THE POPE ON RHODESIAN BISHOP

1. APOSTOLIC DELEGATE CAME TO SEE ME THIS MORNING WITH URGENT MESSAGE FROM HIS HOLINESS POPE PAUL, REGARDING TRIAL OF CATHOLIC BISHOP IN RHODESIA. TEXT OF NOTE FROM APOSTOLIC DELEGATE IS AS FOLLOWS.

2. QUOTE: THE APOSTOLIC DELEGATION PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

THE CARDINAL SECRETARY OF STATE HAS DIRECTED THIS DELEGATION TO COMMUNICATE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA THE SERIOUS PREOCCUPATION OF HIS HOLINESS, POPE PAUL VI, IN REGARD TO THE JUDICIAL PROCESS AGAINST THE MOST REVEREND DONAL RAYMOND LAMONT, BISHOP OF UMTALI IN RHODESIA. AS IT HAS ALREADY REQUESTED THE GOVERNMENT OF GREAT BRITIAN, THE HOLY SEE WOULD BE MOST CONFIDENTIAL

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GRATEFUL IF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WOULD EFFECTIVELY

INTERVENE WITH THE AUTHORITIES OF RHODESIA IN ORDER TO PREVENT ANY CONDEMNATION OF BISHOP LAMONT WHICH UNDOUBTEDLY WOULD BE CONTRARY TO THE PRINCIPLES OF JUSTICE AND HUMANITY.

THIS APPEAL IS DIRECTED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES WITH THE HOPE THAT IT WOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE PRESENCE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE, THE HONORABLE DR. HENRY KISSINGER, IN AFRICA TO INTERVENE PERSONALLY WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF RHODESIA ON BEHALF OF BISHOP LAMONT.

THE APOSTOLIC DELEGATION TAKES THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE THE ASSURENCES OF ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION. END QUOTE.

3. HABIB REMINDED DELEGATE THAT US DOES NOT HAVE RELATIONS WITH RHODESIA, BUT SAID THAT MESSAGE WOULD BE SENT IMMEDIATELY TO SECRETARY. HE NOTED THAT SECRETARY'S MEETINGS WITH IAN SMITH HAD ALREADY BEEN HELD, BUT SECRETARY WOULD CERTAINLY TAKE SERIOUSLY ANY REQUEST FROM HIS HOLINESS AND DO WHAT HE APPROPRIATELY COULD IN THIS MATTER. ROBINSON

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